



Public Power in Colorado

Municipal Utilities in the Colorado Constitution

Municipal Utilities are afforded a unique home in the Colorado Constitution. Key provisions include (but are not limited to):

Article V § 35: "The General Assembly shall not delegate to any special commission... any power to make, supervise or interfere with any municipal improvement, money, property or effects...or to levy taxes or perform any municipal function whatever."

Article XX § 1: "(A home rule city or town) shall have the power, with or without its territorial limits, to construct, condemn and purchase, acquire, add to, maintain, conduct, and operate water works, light plants, power plants... and any other public utilities...and everything required therefore...."

Article XX § 6: "It is the intention of this article to grant and confirm to the people of all municipalities... the full right of self-government in both local and municipal matters... "

Article XXV : "All power to regulate...a public utility...shall be vested in the (PUC); provided however, ...nothing herein shall be construed to apply to municipally owned utilities."

In the Town of Holyoke v. Smith, the Colorado Supreme Court recognizes that the most effective regulatory control over municipal utility activities, including the rates charged by the municipal utility, is not the police power of the state but rather the authority of the citizenry exercised through the local ballot box.

"...Since the municipal government is chosen by the people, they need no protection by an outside body"

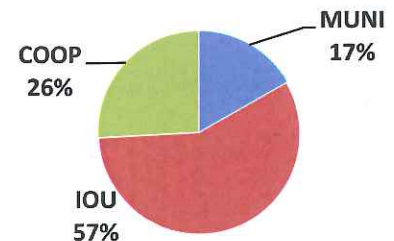
Colorado's Community-Owned, Non-Profit Power Providers

- Municipal Utilities are owned and operated by the communities they serve;
- They are governed at the local level and are not regulated by the Colorado PUC;
- They are self sustaining (not funded by taxpayers) and are not-for-profit. Electric rates cover the cost of providing service and any remaining revenues are directly reinvested into the community;
- Approximately 40% of municipal power comes from non-emitting federal hydro projects.

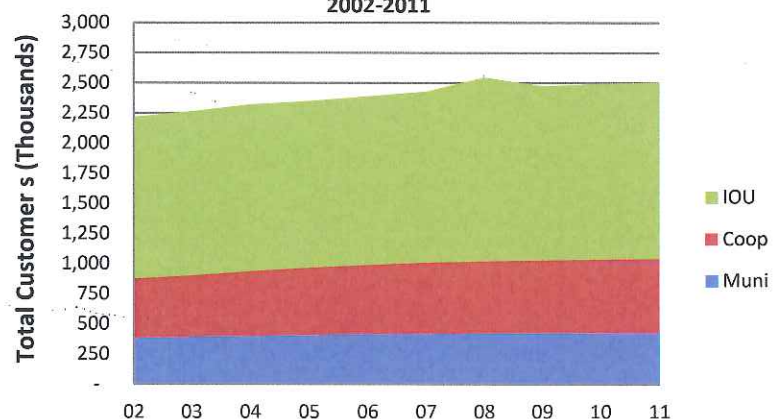
Public Power in Colorado

Municipal Utilities serve approximately 17% of the state's population and can be found in every region of the state from Trinidad in the south, to Fort Collins in the north; from Burlington in the east, to Delta in the west; and they range in size from large cities to small towns.

CO Utilities by % of Population Served



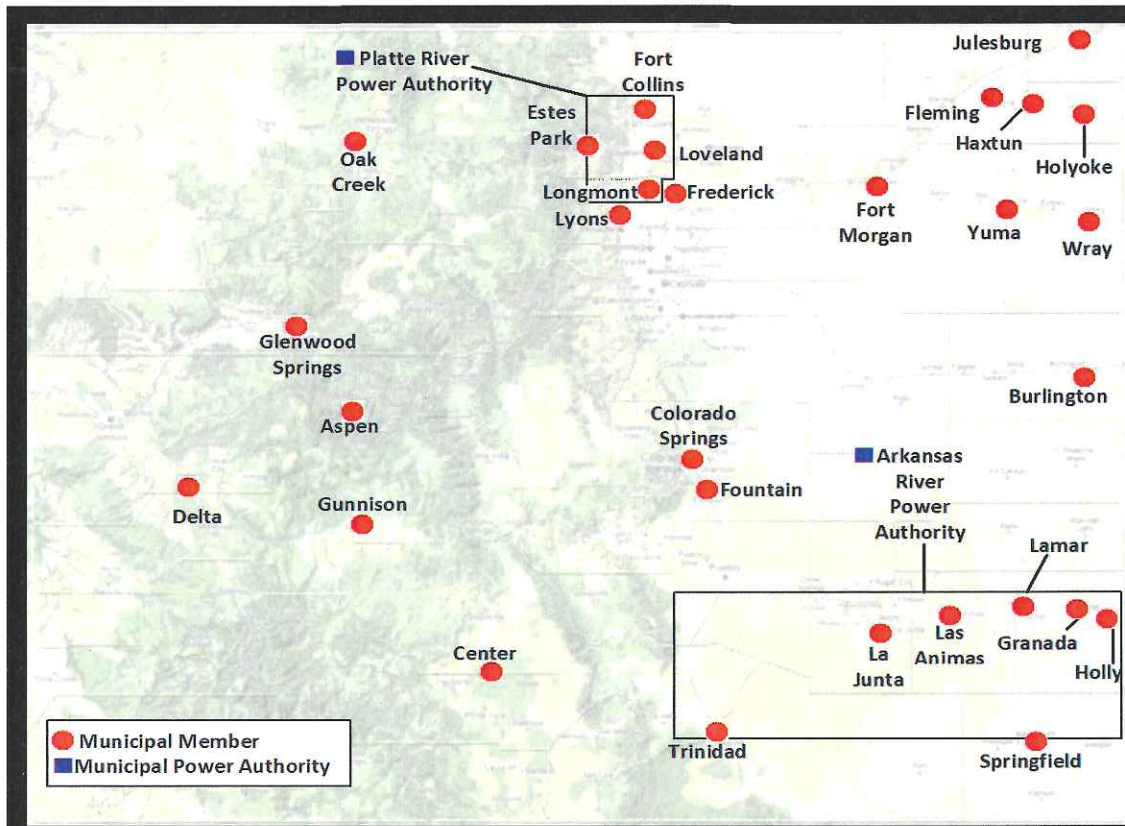
Colorado Electric Customers by Utility Type 2002-2011



Municipal Utility Customers by the Numbers

- Total: 427,873 municipal customers in CO
- Largest: 211,000 customers (Colorado Springs)
- Smallest: 231 customers (Fleming)
- Median: 1742 customers

Public Power in Colorado



-29 Colorado cities and towns own and operate their own electric utility.

-Municipal utilities give their residents a direct say in how their electric system is run.

-Municipal utilities are non-profit & have rates set at the local level.

-Municipal utilities enjoy the lowest average bills in CO.

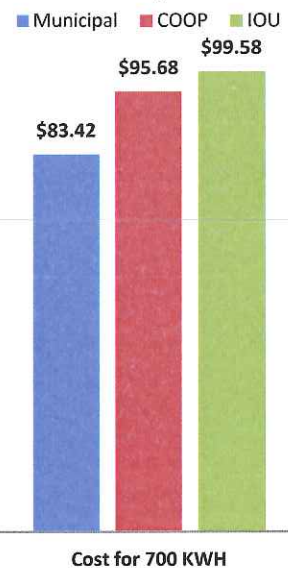
Public Power is Progressive!

Colorado's Municipal Utilities reflect the values of the communities they serve. As a result, municipal utilities are leaders in environmental stewardship. While no two communities' programs are the same, each community takes pride in voluntarily developing energy resource and conservation plans to reduce their impact on the environment. Notable examples include:

- Aspen: 100% renewable goal by 2020
- Colorado Springs: 20% renewable & 10% energy efficiency goal by 2020
- Fort Collins: goal to reduce CO₂ emissions 20% below 2005 levels by 2020
- Glenwood Springs: 25% of its power comes from wind
- Fountain: 10% of its power comes from wind
- Gunnison: 8.5% of power comes from wind
- ARPA communities: 7% of power comes from wind

In addition to these, Municipal Utilities are leaders in community solar gardens, net metering programs, energy efficiency and numerous other progressive programs; each developed voluntarily by their local communities, for their local communities with the input of their citizens.

Colorado Average Residential Bill January 2013



CAMU is a non-profit organization that provides legislative representation, training and information to Colorado's Municipal Utilities.

www.coloradopublicpower.org